

On p.66 it is interesting to read that the following are among the species that have become extinct in the region: *Araschnia levana*, *Euphydryas aurinia* and *Thecla betulae*. I was fascinated by the diagrams of insect flight which record the variety of flight which we old bug hunters know so well; but alas, this does not appear in the Catalogue, for it is something I have not seen recorded before. There is the personal note too, in photographs of Carlo Recchia and Rosetto Gioico at work in their laboratories.

But what interested me more than almost anything were the pre-Linnean species on show. I did not know there were any. But there it was — *Papilio canaria* in a 1750 (?) collection for what we know as *Gonepteryx rhamni*. A brown, labelled '*occulata*'. A pre-Linnean fritillary labelled '*aglaia*'. And of moths, dear old *S. corvolvuli*. I'm working hard with a dictionary. What happy fortune brought me to Verona. — Rev. Canon P. C. HAWKER, St. Botolph's Vicarage, 84 Little Bargate Street, Lincoln LN5 8JL.

A SOUTH AMERICAN SYNTOMID IN CAMBRIDGE. — In October 1981 my wife was given a 'nasty black stinging fly' by our local greengrocer in Chesterton, Cambridge. It had apparently suddenly appeared and alarmed the customers. The specimen, which was in excellent condition, appeared to be freshly emerged and was a male of *Ceramides vividis* Druce. This is a reasonably common South American syntomid whose larvae are recorded as being a minor pest of banana trees, with whose fruit it was almost certainly imported. I have seen many things from our local shops, mostly beetles, but also cockroaches, spiders and once a tree frog. This however is the first Lepidopteran. I hope for others. — B. O. C. GARDINER, University of Cambridge, Department of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge.

MR. J. RAE AND HIS RECORDS, AND A NOTE ON MR. WILLIAM REID OF PITCAPLE. — Whilst recently browsing through Prof. Trail's 1878 list of the "Lepidoptera of Dee" (*Trans. nat. Hist. Soc. Aberdeen*, 1878: 28-42), I noted that the extremely puzzling and unlikely record of *Argynnis paphia* at Muchalls, Kincardineshire was due to Mr J. Rae. Idly moving on to another unlikely record, that of *Erebia medea (blandina)* (= *aethiops*) on the coast at Nigg, Kincardineshire I again found Mr. Rae's authority used. Now roused I searched the list and noted all Mr. Rae's records. They are few but choice!

As well as the two noted above he lists *Zygaena trifolii* between Muchalls and Stonehaven, *Liparis auriflua* (= *Eproctis similis*) at Aberdeen and *Botys verticalis* (= *Pleuroptya ruralis*) at Shetlocksley, Aberdeen. Now the last is still found rarely, scattered throughout lowland Aberdeenshire, but the others are very peculiar. Indeed some authors have had to devote considerable, fruitless time and space to accounting for them in their biogeographical speculation. It seems to me that a strong circumstantial case can be made for regarding Mr. Rae as, shall we just say, unreliable, and my advice would be for people to allow his records to vanish gracefully.

Having impugned one reputation may I resurrect another. P. B. M. Allan, whose writing I admire and enjoy greatly, discusses